

Activity: Safety and Ethics

Overview:

Students discuss different aspects of safety and ethics in the outdoors. They prepare an emergency plan, emergency kit, and set of ethics for outdoor activities.

Associated Objectives:

- ☐ Students will become familiar with basic safety and dress guidelines for outdoor activities.
- ☐ Students will be introduced to basic guidelines to follow in case of an emergency.
- ☐ Students will develop a set of guidelines for ethical conduct for group and individual outdoor activities.

Time:

Two or three 30 – 60 minute sessions

Materials:

Writing materials, poster-sized paper and markers, supplies for an emergency kit, variety of outdoor clothing

Directions:

Refer to the “Safety” portion of the **Outdoor Recreation Basics** section in the *Background Information*. Discuss basic safety and preparedness rules. Discuss the importance of being prepared in the outdoors. Ask students if they have ever been in an emergency situation in the outdoors. Have them share what happened.

Then, ask students to write down on a piece of paper what 10 items they would want to have with them if they got lost in the woods. After students have created their list individually ask them to share what they wrote with another student, then with the class. Create a list on the board and discuss the items they included in their lists.

Ask students: How well do the items listed provide for your basic survival needs (not wants)? Show students a basic emergency kit (see pages 7-8). Ask students to brainstorm what each item is used for and compare their lists to your basic emergency kit. Have them practice using some of the items (not knives or sharp objects).

Prepare a set of basic safety rules for learning and practicing your outdoor skills. Make sure students agree to and understand the reasons for the rules. Keep the list short, so everyone can remember it. Post the rules as a reminder for everyone. Go over your emergency plan (example on page 7).

First Aid – Find out how much members of the group know about first aid. Discuss basic procedures to follow in an emergency situation (emergency plan). Discuss the contents of a basic first aid kit (see page 7). Make sure everyone has a copy of basic procedures. Review emergency plans before any field experience.

Dress – Have a “fashion” show with a variety of outdoor clothing. Have students write descriptions for each item, including its benefits/limitations for outdoor recreation. See page 9 for information about different types of clothing.

Ethics – Discuss the difference between laws and ethics. Have students develop a set of rules for conduct when you are doing recreational activities as a group. Have students develop a set of individual ethics for themselves. They may or may not share them with the rest of the group. (See page 9 for a general list.)

Evaluation:

Students should follow basic safety and ethical guidelines agreed to by the group during outdoor activities. Students will follow set emergency procedures if presented with an emergency situation. Students will dress appropriately for outdoor activities.

Extension:

Older students may teach the concepts learned in this activity to other groups. Do the activity, “Planning a Trip.”